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28 MAY 1958

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 DATE: 26/2/81 REVIEWER:

The Honorable Howard W. Smith, Chairman
 Committee on Rules
 U. S. House of Representatives
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In your letter of 20 May 1958 you request my views on H. R. 12534, which is a bill pending before your Committee. This bill would establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence and is similar to other joint committee proposals which have been made in the past.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have been keenly aware of the extreme sensitivity pervading much of the foreign intelligence field and have taken measures to give maximum protection to intelligence and to intelligence sources and methods. To this end both Houses have formally constituted Subcommittees for Central Intelligence of their respective Armed Services Committees. Appropriations for this Agency are handled by special Subcommittees of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. This Agency appears before these four committees periodically and keeps them currently informed on matters relating to intelligence. Because of the deep interrelation between intelligence and the national defense and security, the award of jurisdiction to Subcommittees of the Armed Services Committees has, we believe, been profitable and tends to keep disclosure of sensitive information on a need-to-know basis.

In considering the proposal of a Joint Committee, we believe the nature and scope of this Agency's legislative problems are pertinent. Since the passage of the National Security Act of 1947, which created the Agency, and the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, which granted to the Agency necessary authorities to enable

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As can be seen, a considerable number of these legislative provisions are properly contained in acts relating primarily to other agencies and activities and which came within the jurisdiction of a variety of congressional committees. No difficulty has been encountered in handling such matters in this manner. It is also evident that the Agency is not faced annually with a substantial legislative program. Except as we may be included in bills pertaining to pay raises for employees, the Agency has no legislation presently before the Congress. The only possibility we can see at the present time of specific legislation on behalf of the Agency would be proposals related to technical administrative authorities, and we have not at this time specific proposals of this nature. Consequently, there is no need from our point of view for a special committee to be assigned to central intelligence matters as there would, for the most part, be little from a legislative angle to occupy such a committee.

I am keenly aware of the need for keeping the Congress appropriately informed, and in this regard I have in recent months appeared before various committees of the Congress to give them information pertinent to their responsibilities. To the best of our knowledge we have been able to give reasonable satisfaction to requests for information from members of Congress as well as from Committees. In all our relations the aspect that is paramount for our work is security. We have always received fullest cooperation from the Congress in security matters.

Sincerely,

Signed

Allen W. Dulles
Director

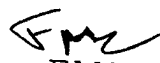
OGC:LRH:jeb
DCI
DDCI
ER
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DD/P
DD/I
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SA/PD/DCI
Asst to DCI (Grogan)
Legislative Counsel
General Counsel w/basie

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL CABELL

If you agree with this letter as revised by DCI
he will have the last page retyped and send it
forward. Do you agree?

Yes ☒ No ☐

(Per cpc
5/26/58)


FMC 26 May
(DATE)

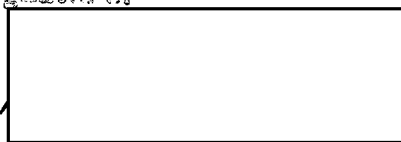
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1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

Attached is a proposed reply to Chairman Howard Smith of the House Rules Committee, who requested our comments on Congressman Frelinghuysen's newly introduced bill to establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence.

Recommend signature.



General Counsel

Corvus
Box

23 May 1958

(DATE)

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